

TOWN OF ESSEX

Harbor Management Commission

29 West Avenue • Essex, Connecticut 06426

Essex Harbor Master (860) 767-0032

Executive Board

Jeffrey Going, Chairman

Joe Zaraschi, Vice Chair

Terry Stewart, Treasurer

Regular Members

John Senning

Earl Fowler

Alternate Members

Kit Schellens

Susan Malan

Minutes – Regular Meeting Thursday, October 22, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

The Essex Harbor Management Commission conducted the regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, October 22nd, 2020 at 7:00 pm in the auditorium of the Essex Town Hall. The meeting was available on Zoom, which was used by

ZOOM MEETING- INVITE LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81986499925?pwd=YXdNT094endzT2kzMGV6MIUrbCs2QT09>

Meeting ID: 819 8649 9925

Passcode: 577371

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

2. Attending Members

Jeff Going

Terry Stewart

Earl Fowler

Joe Zaraschi, John Senning

Kit Schellens and Susan Malan

Absent Members

Ex Officious Members

Paul Riggio, Harbor Master

David Fasulo, Deputy Harbor

Chairman Going revised the Agenda, moving the Bombaci Proposal to come after the Financial report, followed by public comment.

3. Approval of September 24th, 2020, Meeting Minutes:

MOTION made by Terry Stewart to approve of September 24, 2020, Meeting Minutes as presented; **SECONDED** by Joe Zaraschi; **Voting in Favor:** Terry Stewart, Joe Zaraschi, Earl Fowler; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 3/0/0.

4. Financial Report

Terry Stewart presented the Treasurer's Report

- Total Funds---a/o 9/30/20: \$33,990.36

MOTION made by Joe Zaraschi to approve the Treasurer's report as presented; **SECONDED** by John Senning; **Voting in Favor:** Joe Zaraschi, John Senning; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** Terry Stewart; **Approved:** 2/0/1.

Invoices:

Clerk Invoice's #44 Kristin Gleason & Elizabeth McLaughlin - \$267.55

MOTION made by Terry Stewart to approve the Invoices as presented; **SECONDED** by Joe Zaraschi; **Voting in Favor:** Joe Zaraschi, Earl Fowler, Terry Stewart; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 3/0/0

Bombaci "Improvement Project"

The Bombaci Family, LLC proposes to construct an elevated platform and to expand the existing dock to support a marine construction business and shad fishing at their Essex property on the corner of Great Meadows Road located on the Connecticut River. The elevated platform will measure approximately 31' x 78' (2,154 SF) with a deck elevation of 7.0' MLW. The expansion will involve replacing the existing floating dock with a 10' x 60' main floating dock and two (2) 4' x 18' floating finger docks at the end to form a T-head (all restrained by anchor piles), and installation of four (4) dolphin tie-off piles. In addition, the applicant seeks to authorize and maintain the existing boulder/cobble shoreline.

David Provencher, Coastline Consulting, presented the proposal with engineer drawings, charts and visuals. Atty Edward Cassella presented the reasoning for finding the permit application “consistent” with the Harbor Plan

Attorney Edward Cassella representing the Bombaci applicants presented information that this improvement plan is consistent with the Harbor Management Plan. Drawings of layouts were shown to the audience.

5 Public Comment

Numerous participants in the audience expressed concerns about interference with sailing academy, rowing and concerns about safety.

Atty John Bennet, representing a number of residents along River Road, including Susan and John Abbott, presented information supporting a ruling of “inconsistent” with the Harbor Plan.

John Kennedy from Pettipaug Yacht Club spoke and presented some images to the audience to show how shallow and narrow the area is. He said that if a commercial vessel such as the barge is added near Pettipaug Yacht Club the barge would be crossing high activity areas where small vessels operate in is a concern. Loading the equipment onto the barge is another concern.

Wendy Madsen who resides on River Road in Essex with her husband for the past 19 years stated her property abuts and overlooks the Bombaci landside on the west side. Wendy said she has never seen any operations such as loading and unloading dock materials by the Bombaci’s. Wendy stated that she objects to the Bombaci Project and presented 10 reasons why the project is inconsistent with the Harbor Management Plan.

Atty Casella responded to many of the comments. Ed Bombaci spoke about his intentions for the project. He mentioned there would be no storage, no pollution to the environment, and unloading any items to the barge would be done within one hour and no trucks will block the roadway, and that he would coordinate with Pettipaug Yacht Club on when student learning sessions were going on. Ed Bombaci responded to the audience’s questions; one question was asked on how big the barge is. Ed Bombaci replied that it is 42’ feet long and that it draws less than most small yachts.

MOTION was made by Joe Zaraschi to deny the subject application of the Bombaci Improvement Project proposal because it is inconsistent with the Harbor Management Plan. **SECONDED** by John Senning; **Voting in Favor:** Joe Zaraschi, John Senning, Terry Stewart, Earl Fowler; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0.

6 Harbor Master Report

Paul Riggio said that the renewal process for moorings has had a few electronic issues this year and that he is working through them. Paul Riggio has received notification of at least 3 people not renewing their mooring permit for 2021. Last weekend (10/17-18) There was an issue with Frost Bite Yacht Club setting their race marks within the anchorage. Paul Riggio was notified of these issues and it was corrected. There has not been further discussion with the FBYC. This issue will be discussed in this Sunday's pre-race meeting. Any boat racing inside the anchorage will receive DSQ. This has been the rule for many years.

7 Harbor Management Business

(Susan Malan was seated for John Senning at the towards the end of the meeting).

- **Bushnell Access:** The Bushnell Small Vessel waitlist has no new applicants have been received since the previous report. (Sept. 24th)
- **Scholes Lane:** For the 2nd time this summer person(s) are dumping grass clippings and brush.
- **Mack Lane:** for the 2nd time this year trees have been cut down. The first occurrence was in June when 2 small trees along the property line were cut down. The 2nd occurrence occurred recently when a triple paper birch tree was cut down. The cut birch trees were observed on the property and then were removed by the party(s) unknown. The Resident State Trooper was contacted, and a meeting on Oct 14th was attended by Trooper Roberts, the Chair and Vice-Chair and Harbor Master. Leads have been developed and criminal action could be taken for destroying public property. A discussion ensued about whether surveillance cameras may be required in these areas.
- **Novelty Lane Access:** Joe Zaraschi mentioned that It has been observed that tree/bushing pruning is occurring, with clippings left on the property. After consulting with Ryan with Town's Maintenance Dept. He indicated that they not recently done any work at the Novelty. If they did, all clippings would have been removed. Also, an Adirondack chair has been set in place on the bulkhead.

- **Beckwith Proposal Jeff** Going said there is an application letter from Glenn Beckwith on 179 Saybrook Road (in the SW corner of South Cove) that was present to the commission. Stating the fact, Glenn wants a permit to construct a 4ft wide x 57(+/-) LF General permit 4/40 pile/post supported pier of which 37(+/-) LF is waterward of the mean high water line. Jeff mentioned that this is the property offered to the town of Essex last year, undeveloped as a potential park/access. Also, there was a ramp and float that was not permitted. DEEP acted and told them to remove it. Glenn Beckwith then bought the property and wanted to add power and a lift to the dock, but it never came to be. Joe Zaraschi read a letter from Farrah Ashe who is a person at DEEP who is overlooking the project to confirm that they delete the lift from the proposal and shown in the new drawings they are not putting in water or electricity on the dock. Joe Zaraschi stated he wants confirmation on the water and electricity.

MOTION made by Earl Fowler to approve the Beckwith Proposal; it is consistent with the Harbor Management Plan. **SECONDED** by Joe Zaraschi; **Voting in Favor:** Joe Zaraschi, Earl Fowler, John Senning, Terry Stewart; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0.

8. **New Business**

None.

9. **Correspondence**

There are three letters present to Jeff Going. The last count was 5 or 7 FOI and at least 3 different intervention letters were submitted to the Bombaci dock application along with numerous emails on the matter.

10. **Adjournment**

MOTION made by Susan Malan (seated in place of John Senning who left early) to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. **SECONDED** by Joe Zaraschi; **Voting in Favor:** Terry Stewart, Kit Schellens, Joe Zaraschi; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 3/0/0.

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, November 19, 2020, at 7:00 pm.
Essex Town Hall, Conference Room A, 29 West Avenue, Essex, CT.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Gleason
Recording Clerk